



**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

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① ISRAEL-LEBANON: Status of Negotiations

3 *Difficulties in starting negotiations on troop withdrawals are increasing as Lebanon and Israel become more suspicious of each other's intentions.*

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3 Negotiations on opening discussions have been hamstrung by the Israelis' insistence that the talks be held in Beirut and Jerusalem. The Lebanese fear meeting in Jerusalem would alienate potential Arab benefactors and heighten internal Christian-Muslim tensions.

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1 Disputes over venue and other procedural issues have been intensified by suspicions on each side that the other is not negotiating in good faith. President Jumayyil believes the Israelis are using their allies in the Christian community, especially the Phalange party and the Lebanese Forces militia, to undermine his positions on the talks and to portray him as the one who does not want peace with Israel.

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2/4 At a rally on Sunday, Phalange leaders presented the party's position on the negotiations, indicating they do not have any problems on procedural issues. The commander of the Lebanese Forces made it clear he favors a special relationship with Israel.

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1 Comment: These statements will put more pressure on Jumayyil to compromise further. He is unlikely, however, to accept Jerusalem as a place for the first substantive talks.

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3 Israel suspects Jumayyil is stalling in the hope the US will press Israel to make concessions. These apprehensions have been heightened by the belief--advocated by Defense Minister Sharon--that the US is privately encouraging Jumayyil to reject Jerusalem to avoid an Arab reaction that would undercut the US peace plan.

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[Redacted]

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② SAUDI ARABIA - US: Concerns About the Peace Process

✓ *The Saudis are showing reluctance to expend more political capital to promote the US peace initiative unless the US can induce Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.* [Redacted]

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1 Foreign Minister Saud told the US Embassy on Saturday that Riyadh has gone as far as it can to encourage Syrian and Palestinian flexibility without more give in the Israeli position on withdrawal from Lebanon. Saud asserted King Fahd repeatedly has urged PLO chief Arafat to move closer to the US position by recognizing Israel's right to exist or by empowering Jordan's King Hussein to negotiate on behalf of the PLO. King Fahd also has urged Syria and the PLO to withdraw their forces from Lebanon. [Redacted]

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2 Comment: Saudi leaders believe their support for the US peace initiative has not been matched by credible US efforts to moderate Israeli policy. If the US is unable to show more results on the Israeli withdrawal issue, the Saudis' confidence in Washington's resolve will be weakened. They probably will draw back even from the kinds of demarches they have made so far to Arafat and the Syrians. [Redacted]

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2 Riyadh's cautious tactics are dictated primarily by security concerns. The Saudis fear Syrian subversion and radical Palestinian terrorism. [Redacted]

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2 Moreover, the Saudis do not want to give the radicals an issue that could destroy the moderate Arab consensus the Saudis believe they have constructed. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

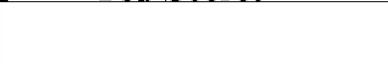
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